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Hoekstra Applauds IOC Iraq Decision

WASHINGTON, D.C. – *U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., the top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, issued the following statement after today’s announcement by the International Olympic Committee that it will allow Iraqi athletes to participate in the Beijing Olympics:*

“The IOC has done right thing by Iraq’s athletes and its people. The Olympics are meant to foster international camaraderie and unity, and Iraqi athletes and citizens will benefit from the spirit of Olympic competition.

“Iraq is emerging as a democracy after decades under totalitarian control. Its participation in the Olympics will help promote national healing and help to unify the country as it continues its transition to democracy.”